

30 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT: Attendance at the Vith Pan American Consultation
on Cartography, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic

A. BACKGROUND

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1. The following report is submitted jointly by the undersigned.

2. The Vith Pan American Consultation on Cartography was held in association with the biannual meeting of the Committee on Cartography of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. Attending from the United States were senior representatives from the Photo and Survey Section of the Joint Intelligence Group, the Army Map Service, the Hydrographic Office, the Aeronautical Photographic and Chart Service, the U. S. Geological Survey, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Department of State. Also from the United States were the Director of the Mapping and Charting Research Laboratory of The Ohio State University Research Foundation and the Executive Secretary of the American Geographical Society. Great Britain was represented by the Director of the British Colonial Surveys, and France by the Technical Advisor to the Institut Geographique National, who also spoke for the International Union of Geophysics and Geodesy. The Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau, representatives of ICAO and the Cartographic Office of UN were also present, as were the top officers of the Pan American Institute.

3. The primary function of the Commission on Cartography, and of its Consultations, is to further the basic surveying, mapping and charting of the Americas, through stimulation of cooperative endeavor and the exchange of technical advice and information on new developments

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in the field of surveying and mapping. Honorary Presidents of the Consultation were Generalissimo Rafael Trujillo Molina, Ex-President of the Dominican Republic and General Hector B. Trujillo Molina, current President and brother of the former. President of the Consultation was Don Vicente Tolentino Rojas, a high dignitary in the Dominican Party and Director of the Institute for Geographical and Geological Investigations at the University of Santo Domingo. As in former consultations, the technical work was conducted under nine sections: Geodesy; Gravimetry and Geomagnetism; Seismology; Topographic Maps and Aerophotogrammetry; Aeronautical Charts; Hydrography; Tides; Special Maps; and Urban Area Surveys. The initial plenary session was held on 11 October and the formal closing took place on 24 October 1952. Technical sessions generally were held from 9:00 to 12:30 and from 3:00 to 6:30 o'clock each day at the University of Santo Domingo.

B. PURPOSE

1. The undersigned attended in order to participate in the technical aspects of the meetings, to observe the extent to which the nations represented were effectively cooperating in the over-all mapping and surveying program for the Americas, to obtain current information on progress in this field, and in particular to establish closer relations with senior U. S. officials present and with those from European countries and international organizations, with a view toward subsequent cooperation on questions of direct interest to the Agency in other foreign areas.

C. MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

1. Technical Accomplishments

a. During the past two years, as indicated in their respective reports, all of the Latin American nations have made sincere efforts to increase the tempo of surveying and mapping within their respective countries, and are applying the standards recommended at previous Consultations.

b. A major accomplishment of the Consultation was the acceptance of a recommendation to the Latin American States that they adopt the Universal Transverse Mercator Projection and Grid System in view of their present participation in a

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common security pact. The UTM has already been accepted and is being applied not only to the military maps of the United States but also Canada, Great Britain (exclusive of the British Isles), all of the countries of Western Europe, the Union of South Africa, and to those of Colonial areas in Africa. From the military point of view, the adoption of the UTM for most of the Western World is of very real importance. It was pointed out by the U. S. representatives that the UTM referencing system could be readily applied to current maps through the use of the electronic computing machines, the services of which would be made available to any of the Latin American countries at no cost to them.

c. Special attention was given to the completion of arcs of triangulation throughout the Americas so that all mapping in the Americas can be referred to a single datum. Through efforts of the U. S. Army, the geodetic adjustment program for Europe has provided that continent with a single datum. Within eighteen months the triangulation arc extending through Africa will be completed and connected with the triangulation of Europe. A single datum for the two areas of Europe/Africa and the Americas will be possible as soon as the Atlantic ocean can be bridged by triangulation or other methods now being developed. Adjustment of control to a single datum is of extreme military importance, particularly in view of guided missile programs.

d. The seventeen Latin American nations having cooperative agreements with the Inter-American Geodetic Survey, Caribbean Command, gave glowing reports of the assistance obtained from this Survey. It is through this assistance that the geodetic and triangulation surveys are progressing so rapidly in Latin America. The Director of the Survey, with the assistance of staff members from Headquarters, Panama, gave a demonstration of flare triangulation at night. This method is used for bridging between points which are not intervisible. Sources of photo-theodolites placed at base stations are tripped electronically and simultaneously by the pilot of the plane from which the flares are dropped. The islands of the Caribbean are being brought into the triangulation net by means of this method.

e. In order to assist in astronomical and other observations, the Commission recommended to the U. S. Bureau of Standards that it increase the intensity of its time signals because, in some southern areas of Latin America, these signals are very weak or unobtainable.

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f. In all appropriate technical sections, emphasis was given to the need for increasing aerial photographic coverage for topographic mapping, aeronautical charting and coastal surveys for hydrographic purposes. Although some countries, such as Chile, have obtained extensive coverage, others are badly handicapped by the high cost of such operations. The delegate from Colombia asked for advice from several U. S. delegates regarding ways in which his country could obtain aerial photographic surveys under some type of assistance program.

g. Attention was given to the review and improvement of standards of accuracy for all survey work. The majority of these had been established at previous Consultations and have been rigorously followed by the various Member States. The Consultation recommended the establishment of a Subcommittee on Standardization of Cartographic Symbols. Standardization of symbols for topographic maps has already been agreed upon by the United States, Great Britain and Canada. These standards are being presented to NATO for consideration in the hope that they will be applied to the over-all NATO mapping program. It would be highly advantageous if the Latin American countries also adopted these standards. Emphasis was also placed on the standardization of specifications for aeronautical charts of all kinds, including approach and landing charts. These specifications are to agree with those established by ICAO. Special attention was given to new chart design required for jet flying, both from navigational and approach points of view.

2. Personal Observations

a. The Argentine Delegation made an obvious bid for leadership in the cartographic field among the Latin American nations. This effort was facilitated by the fact that the Chairmanship of the Commission on Cartography was transferred to Argentina at the previous Consultation in 1950. All members of that Delegation were very well prepared and reported at length on each subject included on the agenda. The first Argentine National Cartographic Congress was held in 1951 and provided the Argentine delegates with technical propaganda fodder. Nevertheless, these delegates were technically competent and contributed to the success of the Consultation.

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b. It was very apparent that the Inter-American Geodetic Survey has developed a highly efficient program of cooperation with the various survey and mapping agencies of the Latin American countries. The numerous official expressions of appreciation by representatives from the Latin American countries for the assistance given by the IAGS was indicative of the good will and respect developed by IAGS personnel in the conduct of their missions. A notable gap in this cooperative effort has been Argentina, whose government has not yet signed a cooperative agreement with the IAGS, although repeatedly urged to do so.

c. As visitors to the Dominican Republic, it was obvious to the U. S. Delegation, at least, that Generalissimo Trujillo continues to rule the country militarily and economically with an iron hand, even though he recently turned over the presidency to his brother, Hector, through the mechanism of a so-called election. The Generalissimo's only official office at present is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. On his birthday, an impressive demonstration of aerial strafing of targets at short distance off-shore was undertaken by approximately fifteen Dominican Air Force fighters, apparently of the F-51 type. This show was intended to emphasize the country's military alertness. An obvious and successful attempt was made to impress the foreign delegations with the material improvements that have been brought about during the past several years in the fields of sanitation, health, education and other material benefits. There is increasing evidence that Trujillo may take stronger measures in controlling foreign investment and industry within his country. This is of particular current concern to the American Embassy. The country has prospered and has become solvent under his regime. The laboring class, although not receiving wages much higher than formerly, are materially better off than before. The Republic is obviously a police state, although the populace appears to have comparative freedom. In this regard, the U. S. Delegation was advised that all hotel rooms probably were wired.

d. From the point of view of future operations of the Geographic Area in GMR, past contacts with U. S. and foreign officials in attendance were fairly relaxed, particularly with the Commanding Officer of the Army Map Service, the Director of the British Colonial Surveys and the representative from

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the Institute Geographique Nationale in Paris, who also is closely associated with mapping programs within the NATO framework. Potentially useful new contacts were established with the incoming Commanding Officers of the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, APIC, and the Inter-American Geodetic Survey, as well as with the several other senior officials in attendance who were not previously known personally by the undersigned.

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Chief, Geographic Research

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